

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1711

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID, VN, VS

SUBJ: NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE UNDP - A STATUS REPORT

1. AS PART USG'S PREPARATORY WORK FORTHCOMING
20TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING (GENEVA 11-27 JUNE),
USUN MISOFF CONTACTED UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, COOMARASWAMY ON HOW UNDP PLANNED
HANDLE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING UNDP ASSISTANCE TO
EITHER OF THE TWO VIETNAMS THAT LIKELY WOULD BE RAISED
BY THE SCANDINAVIANS AND OTHERD. THESE INQUIRIES WOULD
FOLLOW UP ON AID AND OTHER VIETNAM QUESTIONS THEY HAD
RAISED AT THE 19TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING IN JANUARY
AND REQUESTS THAT UNDP PROVIDE THEM WITH ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON UNDP RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AT THE
20TH SESSION.

2. COOMARASWAMY SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN VISITED BY
WALDHEIM'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO VIETNAM, AUBRAC
FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISITS TO HANOI AND SAIGON AND
AUBRAC HAD REPORTED THAT "THE FOREIGN MINISTERS" IN
BOTH HAD EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN EXPLORING WITH UNDP
THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR RECEIVING UNDP DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE. BOTH INDICATED THEY WANTED TO RECEIVE MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT UNDP IS AND WHAT IT DOES BEFORE
PROCEEDING FURTHER.

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3. COOMARASWAMY SAID UNDP WAS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING FACTUAL LETTERS (WHICH WOULD HAVE ATTACHMENTS CONTAINING DETAILED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON UNDP) TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN EACH VIETNAM SPELLING OUT WHAT UNDP IS AND HOW IT OPERATES. THE LETTER TO THE PRG WOULD ALSO MAKE THE POINT THAT UNDP STILL HAS AN OPERATING OFFICE IN SAIGON COMPLETE WITH AN ACTING RESREP, SKELETAL STAFF, APPROVED PROJECTS THAT COULD BE CONTINUED, RESUMED, MODIFIED, ETC. THE LETTERS WOULD ALSO STATE THAT UNDP WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH EITHER IF AND WHEN THEY BELIEVED SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE HELPFUL. AS PRESENTLY ENVISIONED THE FACTUAL LETTERS "WOULD BE CLEARED" BY THE SYG AND SENT OUT UNDER UNDP ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON'S SIGNATURE "SOMETIME NEXT WEEK".

4. WITHOUT GOING INTO ANY DETAIL, COOMARASIMY INDICATED (A) HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN VISITED BY SOME OF THE SCANDINAVIANS AND THE DUTCH RE THE TWO VIETNAMS AND UNDP. (B) HE DOUBTED THAT UNDP WOULD HAVE A REPLY FROM EITHER VIETNAM BEFORE THE 20TH GC MEETING OR THAT AN OBSERVER FROM EITHER NORTH VIETNAM OR THE PRG WOULD ATTEND THE 20TH GC SESSION ALTHOUGH THE PRG DOES HAVE AN OFFICE IN GENEVA AND HANOI IS RESPECTED IN NEARBY PARIS. (C) HE WOULD PROBABLY INDICATE IN HIS GENERAL REMARKS AT THE 20TH GC ON UNDP PROGRAMS IN ASIA THAT UNDP HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN TO HANOI AND PRG.
BENNETT

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